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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **LOS ANGELES**

FILE NO. **52-2204**

REPORT MADE AT LOS ANGELES	DATE WHEN MADE 5/21/47	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 1/16,17; 2/3, 5,7,17; 3/6, 12,17,20,24; 4/3,4,18,19,21, 22,28-30/47	REPORT MADE BY LESLIE F. WARREN <div style="text-align: right;">AAH</div>
TITLE EMBRO PICTURES COMPANY WILLIAM BROWN, was., ET AL			CHARACTER OF CASE THEFT OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY COPYRIGHT MATTERS

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

On February 3, 1947, two informations, each containing one count, filed against BROWN charging violation U.S. Code, Title 17, Section 28, wilful infringement of copyright for profit. Charges involved renting of certain 16 mm. feature film copyrighted by major studios, for commercial showings at Big Bear Lake and Inyokern, both California, between May 18, 1945, and October 28, 1945. No arrest made, subject released on own recognizance, and following plea of nolo contendere to one count (Big Bear showing) was fined on April 21, 1947, \$1,000.00. Second count dismissed. Disposition sheet submitted. Summary of incidental investigation set forth and disposition of film received by this office shown.

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REFERENCE:

Bureau File **52-45079.**
Report of Special Agent HAROLD P. MOSS dated November 29, 1946, at New York, N. Y.
Report of Special Agent LESLIE F. WARREN dated January 15, 1947, at Los Angeles, California.

DISPOSITION SHEET

DETAILS:

On February 3, 1947, two informations, each containing one count, were filed against subject BROWN, charging violation of United States Code, Title 17, Section 28, wilful infringement of copyright for profit. The

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i> COPIES DESTROYED	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
672 NOV 19 1948 2 - Bureau (Encl.) 1 - San Diego (Info) 1 - New York (Info) 1 - U. S. Attorney, Los Angeles 2 - Los Angeles		<div style="text-align: center;">COPY IN FILE</div> <div style="text-align: center;">RECORDED & INDEXED</div>

projector, and furthermore the maintenance of this library would be an expensive proposition. Consequently, he sold the above prints to one EARL FELTON, a motion picture writer, who resides at 452 East 127th Street, Los Angeles. These prints were sold to FELTON for the latter's library, at exactly the cost of the prints to KANE, which consisted of the exact cost of the raw film stock and cost of printing, which was slightly in excess of \$500.00.

KANE made his agreement with FELTON whereby if Republic ever for any reason, particularly copyright reasons, wanted to recall the 16 mm. prints in question, FELTON was to resell them to KANE. Subsequently KANE attempted to recover the prints from FELTON, and it was learned that FELTON had disposed of several of the prints by either selling them or trading them to other individuals.

On March 18, 1947, EARL FELTON was interviewed by the reporting agent in the Los Angeles office. It was learned that FELTON had collected a small library of motion pictures, some of which were studio features. He confirmed the purchasing of the prints as alleged by KANE. He also stated that he had traded several of them off, including some to subject BROWN. He further stated that there was quite a bit of activity in the Hollywood area which involved the buying, selling and trading of prints involving individuals who wished to build up a personal library.

FELTON stated that he at one time intended to go into business renting features within the industry, on the order of BILL BROWN's operations; that is, to set up an exclusive club. When FELTON learned that the F.B.I. was investigating such activities he dropped this idea.

ROBERT FELDEMAN, a film technician who had been employed at numerous commercial film laboratories in the Hollywood area, was interested in FELTON's project, but likewise discarded the idea when it became apparent that possible copyright infringement might result. FELTON promised cooperation with the F.B.I. and stated he would make available his library for inspection, and would try to round up certain prints which he felt were illegally circulating among his friends, and turn them over to the F.B.I. for proper disposition. FELTON drew up a list of films in his possession which is as follows:

- "Dark Command"
- "Flame of Barbary Coast"
- "Man of Conquest"
- "Idaho"
- "Dakota"
- "Sunset Serenade"
- "Heart of Golden West"
- "Cheaters"
- "Flying Tigers"
- "Fighting Seabees"
- "Badman"

"Lone Wolf Keeps a Date"
"In Old Oklahoma" (Traded)
"Brazil" "
"Lake Placid Serenade" "
"Man to Remember" (Returned to owner)
"Castle Shorts" - junk
"Enchanted Cottage" " "

The following prints FELTON had traded to BROWN were received from ~~HARRY GREY~~, also a producer at Republic Studios:

"Dark Command" (This is in addition to one received from KANE)
"Flame of Barbary Coast"
"Brazil"
"Lake Placid Serenade"

FELTON was not sure which print of "Dark Command" had been furnished to BROWN, that is the one received from KANE or the one from GREY.

Concerning Technicolor prints known to be in circulation by FELTON, he said that most of them were believed to be either incomplete or discarded prints. He listed the following:

"San Antonio"
"The Dolly Sisters"
"Anchors Aweigh"
"Ziegfield Follies"
"Spanish Main"
"The Time, Place and the Girl"
"Sherwood Forest"

It was the opinion of FELTON that these Technicolor prints had been stolen from the Technicolor Film Laboratory by employees carrying them out piece by piece until enough was received to make a complete picture or near complete film.

FELTON stated that one ~~CURT LONERGAN~~, who operated a bar in Culver City, California, was known to have collected some of these Technicolor prints.

On March 12, 1947, FELTON called the reporting agent and stated that he had obtained a few films which he would turn over to the F.B.I. if no questions would be asked. He stated he had recovered this film which was known to be circulating among his friends. The film identified in the signed statement set out below was either incomplete, or believed to be seconds or discarded features which had been apparently discarded for technical reasons.

"Los Angeles, Calif.
March 12th 1947

"On the above date the following 16 mm motion picture projection prints were released to Special Agent LESLIE F. WARREN of the Federal

Bureau of Investigation. It is my understanding that they are to be returned to the copyright owners or otherwise destroyed at the direction of the respective copyright owner.

- (1) "Night in Paradise" - Universal
- (2) "Easy to Wed" - MGM
- (3) "Anchors Aweigh" (incomplete) - MGM, approximately 1300 ft.
- (4) "Bombardier" - approximately 600 ft. (incomplete)
- (5) "Boston Blackie" - 1200 ft. (incomplete)
- (6) "Spitfire" - 1200 ft. (incomplete)
- (7) "Her Highness and the Bell Boy" - 1200 ft. (incomplete)
- (8) Two miscellaneous rolls, untitled film, approximately 400 ft. each

"The above films are released voluntarily by myself and no threats or promises have made to me for the purpose of securing said release."

Signed EARL FELTON

Witnessed

LESLIE F. WARREN, FBI - Los Angeles

~~CONF. INFO.~~

FELTON had previously come to the attention of this office as a possible suspect in this case through [redacted] who is known to the Bureau. b7D FELTON at that time lived at 8746 Rosewood Avenue, and contact there disclosed that he had shared an apartment at this address with one ROBERT. FELDEMAN, mentioned above, but had left and was reported to be temporarily in Mexico. FELDEMAN during interview at that time verified in substance the information furnished by FELTON, that the two had intended going into the 16 mm. film distributing business, but had withdrawn when a possible copyright infringement appeared in the offing.

While at this address, a room maintained by IRVING EUGENE LOCKE was made available for inspection by the landlord, JOSEPH R. HUGHES. LOCKE's room disclosed a quantity of 16 mm. technicolor film including two near complete features, "The Time, Place and the Girl" a Warner Brothers release, and "Leave Her to Heaven," a Twentieth Century Fox release. It was further disclosed by investigation that LOCKE had been a recent employee of the Technicolor Film Corporation, and was presently out on strike.

LOCKE, during interview, admitted bringing the pieces of film home without permission from his employers, for his own personal collection. He further stated it was common practice among the employees of certain departments to carry this film out of the plant, in 400 ft. rolls during the printing of a particular picture, until a complete picture or near complete print was obtained. This film had been marked for discard and incineration, but had been picked out of the waste barrels by various personnel and carried from the premises, usually stuffed inside their shirts. LOCKE was cooperative and mentioned a night employee at Technicolor whose duties it was to carry out the

LONERGAN stated he purchased the Technicolor pictures from an unknown individual who contacted LONERGAN in a bar on the Sunset Strip known as the Jacoca Room, which was managed by LONERGAN at the time of the purchase in 1946.

LONERGAN paid \$50.00 for each of the near complete features, "The Time, Place and the Girl" and "Harvey Girls" and paid \$10.00 for the shorter film. The individual according to LONERGAN who sold these prints described himself as a Technicolor film company employee, and from the description given by LONERGAN, it was believed that ALEXANDER, mentioned above, was this employee, although the identification was tentative and has not been positive to date.

Source A on October 19, 1946, advised that a sailor had attempted to sell him two 16 mm. features, "A Letter for Evie," an MGM feature, and "My Gal Loves Music," with BOB CROSBY, a Universal feature.

This sailor was identified as [redacted]

[redacted] He was contacted on October 24, 1946, by agent at the above address which was that of his mother-in-law, Mrs. [redacted] [redacted] was very cooperative and stated he was on terminal leave and produced identification to this effect. He was temporarily visiting in Montebello and was getting ready to return to his residence at [redacted] where he intended to reside following final discharge. His Navy Serial Number was [redacted]

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Regarding the film he stated that he had purchased it under rather suspicious circumstances during March, 1946, from an unknown civilian in Marion, South Carolina, near Charleston. [redacted] claimed to have paid \$30.00 for both features, and stated that he asked no questions when he purchased them but rather suspected that they might have come off of one of the Navy ships in the area. In view of their rather worn condition, he was of the opinion that they were ready for discard, and he felt no qualms about purchasing them. He was not versed on copyright matters and stated that he would gladly release the film to agent for return to the proper copyright owners.

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Possession was taken of the film and the matter was presented to Assistant United States Attorney CALVERLEY at the time, and prosecution was declined, in view of the impractical investigation which would be necessary to attempt to prove sale of the film in question.

These films have been returned to the proper copyright owners, as were those received from EARL FELTON. The receipts are retained in the case files.

A description of [redacted] is as follows:

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LA 52-2204

Sex:	Male
Color:	White
Nationality:	American
Age:	
Height:	
Weight:	
Hair:	
Complexion:	
Eyes:	

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A description of EARL FELTON is as follows:

Sex:	Male
Color:	White
Nationality:	American
Age:	34
Height:	5' 7"
Hair:	Dark
Eyes:	Dark
Complexion:	Medium dark, possible Jewish extraction Has been crippled since age five, uses crutches

CURT LONERGAN was known to this office from a previous Selective Service investigation. He is described as follows:

Sex:	Male
Color:	White
Nationality:	American
Age:	35
Height:	5' 10"
Weight:	200 lbs.
Hair:	Dark brown
Eyes:	Dark
Complexion:	Ruddy

A description of subject BROWN has been previously submitted. The records consolidated in Local Draft Boards No. 239 through 242, at 1614 North Cahuenga, Hollywood Boulevard, disclosed that BROWN was born February 14, 1896, in Aberdeen, Scotland, and was 46 years of age at the time he registered on April 25, 1942. He resided at 6239 1/2 Franklin at that time and was 5' 9 1/2" tall, weighed 145 lbs., dark complexion, rugged features, brown eyes, brown hair graying at temples.

A copy of this report is being furnished to the San Diego Division to reflect disposition of the Navy film picked up from ROBERT BURNHAM, and also in view of the U. S. Attorney's opinion as set forth herein.